

Date: Tue, 15 Jun 93 17:44:53 PDT
From: Info-Hams Mailing List and Newsgroup <info-hams@ucsd.edu>
Errors-To: Info-Hams-Errors@UCSD.Edu
Reply-To: Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu
Precedence: Bulk
Subject: Info-Hams Digest V93 #731
To: Info-Hams

Info-Hams Digest Tue, 15 Jun 93 Volume 93 : Issue 731

Today's Topics:

 6 meter E-skip is back! (2 msgs)
 6M multi-hop Es to the US
 A little radio FUN!
Apollo & hams (was Re: "If you believe they put a man on the moon")
 Are we losing our technical abilities?
 Broadcast IDs
computers, printer, software, ham/wefax gear
 Entry Level HF Rigs
 Ground Plane always on bottom?
How should feedline run to vertical folded dipole?
 Looking for a GPS receiver -- Recommendations?
 New Radio Shack HT??? (2 msgs)

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu>
Send subscription requests to: <Info-Hams-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Info-Hams Digest are available
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/info-hams".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: 15 Jun 93 19:33:27 GMT
From: orca!bambam!alan@uunet.uu.net
Subject: 6 meter E-skip is back!
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <C8oCwM.ABB@fc.hp.com> perry@fc.hp.com (Perry Scott) writes:
>It's summertime again in the US and 6-meter E-skip is back!
>
>TV channel 2 in Colorado was obliterated by Cedar Rapids Iowa. It
>really messed up my Rockies game. I have noticed interference on
>channel 2 every time I've turned on the TV.

>
>73!
>
>Perry Scott
>AA0ET

Even channels 3, 4, 5 and sometimes 6 can be affected. A tune across the FM broadcast band can also yield some interesting things. Guess who gets blamed for the interference?! Don't forget that 10 meters opens up during the summer months too.

--
Alan Brubaker, K6X0 |~|_ "Pumps have handles, Hams have names;
<IYF disclaimer> | * |mine's Lee, what's yours?" - Lee Wical,
Internet: alan@dsd.es.com|____|KH6BZF, the Bloomin' Zipper Flipper.

Date: Tue, 15 Jun 1993 20:40:09 GMT
From: pravda.sdsc.edu!news.cerf.net!usc!howland.reston.ans.net!darwin.sura.net!
rsg1.er.usgs.gov!resdgs1.er.usgs.gov!tbodoh@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: 6 meter E-skip is back!
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <1993Jun15.193327.12446@dsd.es.com>, alan@bambam.es.com (Alan Brubaker) writes:

|> In article <C8oCwM.ABB@fc.hp.com> perry@fc.hp.com (Perry Scott) writes:
|> >It's summertime again in the US and 6-meter E-skip is back!

|> >
|> >TV channel 2 in Colorado was obliterated by Cedar Rapids Iowa. It
|> >really messed up my Rockies game. I have noticed interference on
|> >channel 2 every time I've turned on the TV.

|> >
|> >73!

|> >
|> >Perry Scott
|> >AA0ET

|> >
|> Even channels 3, 4, 5 and sometimes 6 can be affected. A tune across
|> the FM broadcast band can also yield some interesting things. Guess
|> who gets blamed for the interference?! Don't forget that 10 meters
|> opens up during the summer months too.

|> >
|> >
|> --
|> Alan Brubaker, K6X0 |~|_ "Pumps have handles, Hams have names;
|> <IYF disclaimer> | * |mine's Lee, what's yours?" - Lee Wical,

|> Internet: alan@dsd.es.com|____|KH6BZF, the Bloomin' Zipper Flipper.

--

On Saturday afternoon, I heard a call on one of the local State Police frequencies regarding a thunderstorm watch - but I noticed that the dispatcher had a southern accent and the time she gave was Eastern! I later picked up some police calls from Ohio too. I was really bummed - I don't have any 6 or 10 meter equipment, and my license hasn't arrived yet...

```
+++++
+ Tom Bodoh - Sr. systems software engineer
+
+ USGS/EROS Data Center, Sioux Falls, SD, USA 57198      (605) 594-6830      +
+ Internet; bodoh@dgg.cr.usgs.gov (152.61.192.66)
+
+ "Welcome back my friends to the show that never ends!" EL&P
+
+++++
```

Date: Tue, 15 Jun 1993 20:42:48 GMT
From: pravda.sdsc.edu!news.cerf.net!usc!howland.reston.ans.net!noc.near.net!
squam.banyan.com!banyan.com!dts@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: 6M multi-hop Es to the US
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

6 Meter Band
Weak signal layout

50.0000 - 50.0800 Beacons, etc. (DO LISTEN HERE!!!!)
50.0800 - 50.1000 CW Only
50.1000 - 50.1250 DX Window
50.1250 - 50.4000 general SSB activity
50.4000 - ??? AM Activity

Generally, leave your dial around 50.125. That's the calling frequency. Don't go into the DX window unless you are calling for DX or answering a DX CQ. How do you know to go into the DX window and call DX (assuming evreything is pretty quiet)? When you hear one of the beacons. There is a beacon in Greenland that I have heard, but so far I have not worked any DX myself.

During contests you will hear people in the CW portion, and most everyone else will be in 50.125 to 50.200. This past weekend there were so many stations that people were spread all the way up to 50.300. We worked south florida for the first time. I got 3 or 4 grids in florida, and I think faith got 2 or 3.

Good luck on 6 meters... see you in the Es openings!

--

Daniel Senie Internet: dts@banyan.com
Banyan Systems, Inc. Compuserve: 74176,1347
508-898-1188 Packet Radio: N1JEB@WA1PHY.MA

Date: 15 Jun 1993 19:52:22 GMT
From: pravda.sdsc.edu!news.cerf.net!usc!howland.reston.ans.net!noc.near.net!
transfer.stratus.com!sw.stratus.com!fms@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: A little radio FUN!
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <1993Jun15.173849.27558@ll.mit.edu>, wjc@ll.mit.edu (Bill Chiarchiaro)
writes:

>
> [parts of my article about yelling "TANGO" into a microphone for 10 minutes
> deleted]
>
> I just have to ask: had you brought a code key along with you?
> Whenever I've had to send my contest information by voice more than a
> very few times, I've always switched to CW. One transmission of:
>
> N1CPK N1CPK FN42 FN42 K
>
> and the other station has me in the log. I'm sure it would have
> worked in your case, assuming the operator of the moment at WA2WHD
> knew code!
>
> Of course, if your intent was to show that you could work the path
> using SSB, the above is moot...
>
>

Hi Bill,

Embarrassingly enough, we forgot to throw the key into the box of goodies
we brought up onto the mountain with us! And mid-QSO isn't necessarily the
time to go about home-brewing one, either... :-)

Next time, the key goes with us!

73 de Faith N1JIT

--

Faith M. Senie InterNet: fms@vos.stratus.com
Stratus Computer, Inc. InterNet: fms@hoop.sw.stratus.com

55 Fairbanks Blvd. Pkt Radio: n1jit@wa1phy.ma.usa.na
Marlboro, MA 01752 Phone: (508)460-2632

"I'm afraid I don't know very much about Romulan Disruptor settings" --Spock

Date: 15 Jun 93 15:38:49 -0600
From: lll-winken.llnl.gov!fnnews.fnal.gov!fnalv.fnal.gov!higgins@seismo.css.gov
Subject: Apollo & hams (was Re: "If you believe they put a man on the moon")
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

X-Date: 15 Jun 93 15:28:50 -0600
X-Organization: Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory
Lines: 37
X-NNTP-Posting-Host: fnalnl.fnal.gov

In article <JREDFORD.93Jun10185654@cockatrice.bbn.com>,
jredford@cockatrice.bbn.com (John Redford) writes:

>

> I was humming the song by REM that has the above line in it when I
> fell to wondering just how one could prove they put a man on the moon.
> Not that I doubt they did, but still, how could I, Joe Citizen, find
> evidence of the Apollo landings?

I think the best bet is to look for signals from the ALSEP transmitters left by astronauts at various landing sites. I know they were turned off in September 1977, but last time this came up on the Net (December 1992), we decided that radio amateurs with the right equipment could have detected them.

So search through ham radio magazines between 1969 and 1977 to see if anybody *did* report DX'ing the Moon. It must have been a tempting target, and moonbounce hams probably at least attempted it.

It's even possible that hams caught Apollo transmissions from the surface while there were *people* up there; if so, I'd certainly expect this to have been reported in *QST* or *73*.

If you get a positive result, it may not *prove* that men walked on the Moon, but it certainly puts Occam's Razor to work on the hoax theory. To deny Apollo, you have to assume:

- 1) NASA secretly landed automatic transmitters on the Moon, sending back either the ALSEP experiment data or recorded voices; or
- 2) The conspiracy extended to hams, who lied about detecting signals.

Maybe I'll crosspost this to a radio group and see what they have to say. They've got stacks of magazines, after all...

Bill Higgins		If we can put a man on the Moon, why can't
Fermilab		we put a man on the Moon? -- Bill Engfer
higgins@fnal.fnal.gov		If we can put a man on the Moon, why can't
higgins@fnal.Bitnet		we put a woman on the Moon? -- Bill Higgins

Date: 15 Jun 1993 15:25:24 -0700
From: techbook.com!techbook.com!not-for-mail@uunet.uu.net
Subject: Are we losing our technical abilities?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I am forwarding this email discussion to the newsgroup in case someone may think it worthy of further consideration.

>From: davids@ims.com
>
>Apparently (a) the "J-slot" antennas he was talking about were not mobile,
>but fixed, and (b) "J-slot" is (or was) the BRAND NAME of an antenna made
<by some company in Californiatia or someplace. AND, they were a type of
>Yagi or something with 12 or 13 elements, and possibly a special driven
>element. AND, the two guys he knew who were screwing around with them had
>TWO of them mounted on a mast, and had done computer modeling on the result,
>to the extent that they'd gotten the array to put out a 36" wide "beam" on
>2 meters, with which they could talk all the way up and down Southern
>Californiatia.
>
>this all happened 20 years ago.
>
>He says "they're losing the technology", i.e. the hams of today are
>SO STUPID, (UNEDUCATED) that all they can do is "go buy a box and
>hook it up, so they don't have to think".

It is probably true. I assert that this is ONE inevitable result of publishing all the test questions. Some might argue about no-code Tech tickets being a contributing factor but I disagree.

It was originally neccessary for each prospective ham to actually learn a certain level of electronics to prepare for a particular test. You actually had to learn it all as best you could.

"Cramming" the test questions is too easy a method for most people, (including me), to forgo. Unless you already know electronics, this does not prepare anyone to do much of anything BUT pass the test.

More liberalism at work? IE: It would't be fair if some candidates couldn't pass the test. ^^^^

I learned all the material for the novice and tech ticket the hard way years ago, (in the 9th grade, about 1966). It took several weeks of 1 class a week for 4 hours. That's where I originally learned basic electronics. When you finished the class you actually KNEW something.

5 years later, I started a 2 year electronics program at the community college. I could have skipped much of the first quarter entirely. A good deal of the second quarter was familiar.

You don't get that "cramming" from a question manual.

I was no electronics expert, but I am concerned, (for the long term health of the ham fraternity), that I then knew far more technology than many of today's "cram study" licensees.

We may be seeing the results of the "dumbing down" of amateur radio operators to the lowest common denominator, just as we are seeing plummeting scores in the public school system.

My only thought on remedying the situation is to try to lead by example by being more educated ourselves.

73's

Gene

Smoky the ham says:

Only you
^^^

can prevent ham radio becoming the next Citizens Band.

--

Those who beat their swords into plowshares
are destined to plow for those who don't.
genew@techbook.COM

Please direct flames to: genew@ucant.gethere.frmhere

Date: 15 Jun 93 17:18:03

From: zip.eecs.umich.edu!zip.eecs.umich.edu!hideg@yale.arpa

Subject: Broadcast IDs

To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Does anyone out there know the FCC rules governing the identification of commercial broadcast radio stations?

There is a new station in Detroit that NEVER gives its callsign.

Thanks.

--Steve
hideg@erim.org

Date: Tue, 15 Jun 93 14:59:56 GMT
From: netcon!bongo!skyld!jangus@locus.ucla.edu
Subject: computers, printer, software, ham/wefax gear
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <1596@arrl.org> ppagel@arrl.org writes:

>
> FOR SALE
>

Enough is enough. This is not the damned yellow sheets. If you want to sell something, post it to rec.radio.swap.

Hey Jay, how about rec.radio.amateur.ppagel?

J. Angus: jangus@skyld.tele.com -- "Als ik Kan", Gustav Stickley
US Mail: PO Box 4425 Carson, CA 90749-4425 1 (310) 324-6080

Date: Tue, 15 Jun 1993 20:48:45 GMT
From: haven.umd.edu!darwin.sura.net!howland.reston.ans.net!noc.near.net!
squam.banyan.com!banyan.com!dts@ames.arpa
Subject: Entry Level HF Rigs
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <mellerso-140693095922@memac.ucns.uga.edu>, mellerso@uga.cc.uga.edu
(Mike Ellerson) writes:
|> Has anyone had any experience with the REntry LevelS HF rigs like the :


```
|> Kenwood TS 140S
|> Yaseu FT747GX
|> Icom 725 and 728
|>
|> These rigs are all available for less than $900. For around $1100 the
|> Kenwood TS450 and Yaseu FT890 are available. I am sure myself and other
```

The FT890 is well worth the extra money over the entry level rigs above. At the level of the 890 and the TS450 things like keyers and SWR meters start showing up in the rigs, as do auto tuners. By the time you add up these needed accessories and add them to the entry level rigs, you'd be better off spending the extra bucks up front.

```
|> soon to be amateurs would benefit from any experiences that you have had
|> with any of these rigs. In the entry level class all these units are fairly
|> close in features. Also, how important is the FM mode which the FT747GX and
|> Icom 725 and 728 omit? Is it worth paying extra for 6M on the Icom 729 and
```

I have an IC-726, the predecessor to the IC-729. We also just got an IC-575H 6 meter all mode. The 726 does not have the best receive for 6 meters, which is something of an understatement. I am not sure what the preamp in the 726 was targetted for, but it really generates more noise than it's worth, much of the time.

The Kenwood 690 does have the advantage of 50 watts on 6 meters instead of 10 watts from the Icom HF+6 rigs.

```
|> Kenwood TS690 ? Do any of these units have a better receiver section than
|> the other ? Any features more valuable than others ? Any information would
|> be appreciated.
|>
|>
|>
|> Thanks in Advance
```

I have a personal bias against Kenwood. Generally I recommend Yaesu for HF and Icom for VHF/UHF. The FT890 is EASILY the best compact rig I have ever worked with. I own its big brother, the 990, but would love to have an 890 in the mobile.

— —

Daniel Senie
Banyan Systems, Inc.
508-898-1188

Internet: dts@banyan.com
Compuserve: 74176,1347
Packet Radio: N1JEB@WA1PHY.MA

Date: Tue, 15 Jun 1993 06:41:26 GMT
From: netcomsv!netcom.com!wa2ise@decwrl.dec.com
Subject: Ground Plane always on bottom?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <Nimtz.1-140693160042@nimtziici.edmedia.nd.edu> Nimtz.1@nd.edu (Rick Nimtz) writes:

>Do the ground plane wires need or have to be lower than the 1/4 wave
>radiating element?

>

>I have a 1/4 wave ground plane for 2 meters hanging upside down in a window
>and it does a decent job, well it's better than the rubber duck.

The ham club at Syracuse University, a few years after I graduated in '78, put up a repeater on top of the tall dorm up on the tall hill on campus (Day Hall), on the tower the campus FM radio uses. I remember, when paying a visit to the college a few years after graduation and dropping by the ham club, a friend showing me the repeater. They didn't have a diplexer then, so they used two antennas. one high up for receive, another lower to transmit. groundplanes. The bottom (transmit) was mounted up-side-down to increase isolation from the receive antenna. I was told that the machine was somewhat like a rabbit and not an alligator. Big ears, small mouth.

Date: Tue, 15 Jun 1993 20:14:17 GMT
From: pravda.sdsc.edu!news.cerf.net!usc!howland.reston.ans.net!gatech!
willis1.cis.uab.edu!right.dom.uab.edu!user@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: How should feedline run to vertical folded dipole?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I am putting up a folded dipole fed from twin lead. It will hang off a balloon. Will there be a problem if I just let the twin lead feed line hang alongside the folded dipole? I had planned on offsetting the feedline so it would be about 1/2 to 1 wavelength off to the side, but if I do not have to it would simplify matters.

Thanks,
Steve KD4TTC

Date: 15 Jun 93 23:55:33 GMT
From: ogicse!uwm.edu!cs.utexas.edu!sdd.hp.com!col.hp.com!kenw@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Looking for a GPS receiver -- Recommendations?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

ICOM has a new one out. Check with Ham Radio Outlet. Someone was selling one for \$750.

Date: Tue, 15 Jun 1993 18:45:45 GMT
From: csus.edu!news.ucdavis.edu!othello.ucdavis.edu!ez006683@decwrl.dec.com
Subject: New Radio Shack HT???
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Paul,

I feel that the idea of this being nothing more than promotion has to do with the input you normally give to the net. If this were the only post you made since your post about HTX-202 then I would consider it nothing more than promotion. Since I have seen your .sig other places it is less clear. Almost all of your posts are strictly about Radio Shack merch. though. For what it's worth.

BTW: regarding:

: The new Radio Shack 440 MHz scanner is now available at some
: stores (like the HTX-202, manufacturing is starting very

Disengage usual cheap consumer Radio Shack mindset first. :-)

Dan

--

* Daniel D. Todd Packet: KC6UUD@WA6RDH.#nocal.ca.usa *
* Internet: DDTODD@ucdavis.edu *
* Snail Mail: 1750 Hanover #102 *
* Davis CA 95616 *

* I do not speak for the University of California.... *
* and it sure as hell doesn't speak for me!! *

Date: Tue, 15 Jun 1993 21:09:18 GMT
From: pravda.sdsc.edu!news.cerf.net!usc!elroy.jpl.nasa.gov!lambda.msfc.nasa.gov!
troll11!rich@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: New Radio Shack HT???
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

->
->BTW: regarding:
->
->: The new Radio Shack 440 MHz scanner is now available at some
->: stores (like the HTX-202, manufacturing is starting very
->
->Disengage usual cheap consumer Radio Shack mindset first. :-)

Data was restricted to a) availability, b) Specifications. c) contained no obvious hype.

I for one, appreciated the early information. I also appreciated the data and info about the workings of the HTX-202, since I own two of them. IMHO, Paul is providing a careful balance between the usual sales droid and a (surprisingly) helpful attitude instead of the usual corporate push.

Note that although I will never excuse the TRS-80 Model 1 as being a real computer by the wildest stretch of the imagination, RS seems to be responding to the needs of the Ham radio community. Let's see a nice mobile HF rig that covers all modes and bands from 80-10? I'll buy one, if just for a battery powered backup for my Collins boatanchors. RS is trying to shake off their old image, albiet slowly.

No, I do not work for RS, nor can I imagine doing so--- :>)

Flames, e-mail, etc to the address in the .sig.

--rich (cautious customer)

By the way Paul, why does my DX-370 eat batteries so fast, even on the AC adapter? The DX-390 runs much longer.

"My opinions are my own, and my employer (Boeing Computer Support Services) denies any responsibility for me, all opinions in general, and anything I may say, do, or be otherwise associated with outside of work for them.
-- Use at your own risk, your mileage may vary, no news is good news."
("finger" might get my current snail mail addresses, assuming it works)
E-MAIL REPLY TO: rich@troll1.msfc.nasa.gov PLEASE KEEP IT "G" RATED

Date: 15 Jun 93 21:34:51 GMT
From: uhog.mit.edu!xn.ll.mit.edu!ll.mit.edu!wjc@RUTGERS.EDU
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <1vitjl\$99t@transfer.stratus.com>, <1993Jun15.173849.27558@ll.mit.edu>,
<1v199m\$9ak@transfer.stratus.com>
Subject : Re: A little radio FUN!

In article <1v199m\$9ak@transfer.stratus.com>, fms@sw.stratus.com (Faith Senie)
writes:

|>
|> ...stuff deleted...
|>
|> Embarrassingly enough, we forgot to throw the key into the box of goodies
|> we brought up onto the mountain with us! And mid-QSO isn't necessarily the
|> time to go about home-brewing one, either... :-)
|>
|> Next time, the key goes with us!
|>
|> ...stuff deleted...
|>

Well, if you feel like improvising, and your rig can transmit either
FM or full-carrier AM, there is the method of tapping out code on the
microphone PTT!

Gee, I wonder if whistling a pure tone into the mike on SSB would
be effective. I might have to try that sometime!

73

Bill Chiarchiaro
wjc@ll.mit.edu

Date: Tue, 15 Jun 1993 20:35:19 GMT
From: pravda.sdsc.edu!news.cerf.net!usc!elroy.jpl.nasa.gov!swrinde!emory!
cs.utk.edu!ornl!rsg1.er.usgs.gov!resdgs1.er.usgs.gov!tbodoh@network.UCSD.EDU
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <C8nAqG.4px@athena.cs.uga.edu>, <1993Jun15.141003.22243@ke4zv.uucp>,
<1v17lpINN79h@network.ucsd.edu>ov
Subject : Re: Digital microwave project

In article <1v17lpINN79h@network.ucsd.edu>, brian@nothing.ucsd.edu (Brian Kantor)
writes:

|> gary@ke4zv.UUCP (Gary Coffman) writes:
|> >>>Strictly speaking, all such transmissions are prohibited, even the
|> >>>midi sequences. The rules don't specify the format, only the content.

|>
|> Indeed, one could not, under that opinion, legally send images of sheet
|> music, or speak sequences of notes over ham radio.
|>
|> Luckily, however, the rule of law is tempered to justice by reason.
|> - Brian

--

And who is the judge of what is music? Some would argue that rap is not
music...

++++++
+ Tom Bodoh - Sr. systems software engineer
+
+ USGS/EROS Data Center, Sioux Falls, SD, USA 57198 (605) 594-6830 +
+ Internet; bodoh@dgg.cr.usgs.gov (152.61.192.66)
+
+ "Welcome back my friends to the show that never ends!" EL&P
+
++++++

End of Info-Hams Digest V93 #731
